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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6525
INFO RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0322

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 000861

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/16/2019

TAGS: PREL PHUM PREF RW

SUBJECT: REFUGEE DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 126675

Classified By: Ambassador W. Stuart Symington for reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

(C) Polcouns delivered reftel demarche December 16 to Ben Rutsinga, MFA's Director of Europe, Americas, UN and International Organizations. Rutsinga said that the Government of Rwanda (GOR) judged that conditions in Rwanda were adequate for Rwandan refugees to return home. He emphasized that the GOR did not want to force anyone to return, and wanted to encourage host countries to find better status for Rwandans resident in their countries, such as registering them as aliens rather than leaving them as "stateless" refugees, which was dehumanizing. Rwandans could continue to live abroad if they wished, returning to Rwanda only temporarily to visit family, for example. (Comment: Rutsinga and his family, like many Rwandans, spent several years in exile due to the pre-1994 government's exclusionary policies and stance against refugee returns. End Comment.)

SYMINGTON